

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

**Minority Student Affairs**

1800 Melrose Avenue
Black Cultural Center
Knoxville, TN 37996-4200
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<http://omsa.utk.edu>

Greetings Faculty, Staff, Student Leaders, Community Members:

On behalf of the Black Issues Conference Planning Committee, the University of Tennessee Chapter of the NAACP, and the Office of Minority Student Affairs, we would like to invite you to participate in the 6th Annual Black Issues Conference, “*Black in America: Honoring the Past, Enhancing Our Future*.” The conference is designed to assist in the educational development of students through uniting the campus and community on issues that affect the Black Community as a whole. The conference is scheduled for Saturday, February 5, 2011, in the Carolyn P. Brown Memorial University Center from 8:30am – 4:30pm.

We are asking you as faculty, staff, student leaders, and community members to share in this experience by presenting on a topic of your choice during our workshop sessions. We are asking that you prepare a 45-50 minute presentation on an issue that the Black community is facing and how we can develop solutions to the problem. Some topics to think about include, but are not limited to:

- Affirmative Action
- Black, Ethnic and Racial Identity
- Black Interpersonal Relationships
- Bridging the Generational Gap of Leadership
- Community Restoration
- Creating Civility and Community on Campus
- Defining Black Leadership for the New Millennium
- Education & Our Community
- Health Issues in the Black Community
- Overcoming the Crab in the Barrel Effect
- Rethinking the Purpose of Organizations Created During the Civil Rights Era
- Spirituality in the Black Community
- Violence in the Community
- Today’s Hip Hop Culture
- Visions for Black Men/ Visions for Black Women

Please electronically submit your proposal and an outline of your program to the 6th Annual Black Issues Conference Planning Committee by January 14, 2011 to the following online submission system:

<http://bit.ly/bicsubmission>

Thank you for your time and consideration. We hope that you will join us either as a presenter or as a conference attendee.

Sincerely,

The 6th Annual Black Issues Conference Planning Committee
The University of Tennessee

**The University of Tennessee
6th Annual Black Issues Conference
General Program Proposal Form**

Conference Theme: "Black in America: Honoring the Past, Enhancing our Future"
Date: Saturday February 5, 2011
Location: Carolyn P. Brown Memorial University Center

Program Title: " You Know Black People Don't..."

Program Abstract/Summary: (This summary will go in the program guide; ex: "You Are Better Than Peanut Butter"-The presentation deals with effective ways of presenting yourself to others and future employers. The secret is in the peanut.) (Program length should be 50 minutes)
This interactive session will examine some of the historical foundations of African American identity; while challenging the perceptions and expectations of "acceptable behavior."

Please provide an additional outline of your program describing how your presentation relates to the conference theme. It should include a summary of key points, program content, use of handouts, and significance to conference participants. This outline will be used to assess your proposal.

Coordinating Presenter:

Name: Colber Prosper

Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone/Fax#: _____

Email: _____

Other Program Presenters:

Name: Earl Coleman

Title: _____

Please check any that apply to your program needs:

- ☐ Flip Chart/Markers
- ☐ VCR/DVD/Monitor
- ☐ Overhead/Screen
- ☐ Laptop for PowerPoint presentations
- ☐ Dry Erase Board
- ☐ Other: _____

✓ Deadline to have your proposal considered is **Friday, January 14, 2011.**

Please submit proposals through the following link:

<http://bit.ly/bicsubmission>

For additional information contact:

Tanisha Jenkins (tjenkins@utk.edu) or Stephen Smith (ssmit113@utk.edu)

Abstract

This interactive session will examine some of the historical foundations of African American identity; while challenging the perceptions and expectations of "acceptable behavior." It will highlight cross-cultural examples both domestically and abroad. There will be a 30 minute presentation providing the background information and some implications of the issues. From there, participants will complete an activity that makes the issues more tangible and allows for conversation and process. The session will be wrapped up at the end with a debriefing session.

The presentation will examine three main areas:

- Exploring the foundations of racial identity
- Role of the media in shaping identity
- Cross-cultural perspectives exploring what it means to be black in cultures abroad (enfocused specifically in nations where they also the minority of the population. Examples: England, Nicaragua, ect)

Outputs Desired

Increased knowledge of the historical context of "acceptable behavior"

Increased knowledge of blacks in cultures abroad.

Questioning of the cultural status quo defining "blackness"